

■ Past and Future: Responsibility and Opportunity

Becoming the editor of a well established, international, peer-reviewed journal is a grave responsibility. At the same time, it is an exciting opportunity. *The Journal of Manual and Manipulative Therapy* was started in 1993 with the goal of providing an international forum where ideas on the theory and practice of orthopaedic manual therapy (OMT) could be shared among clinicians and researchers worldwide^{1,2}. To this end, over the past 12 years, the *Journal* has published original research articles, literature reviews, case reports, Letters to the Editor, and media reviews.

As Drs. John Medeiros and Stanley Paris acknowledged in their last editorial of the first year of publication², the continued high-quality material published in the *Journal* is the result of the work of many talented and dedicated people. We want first to acknowledge the authors for taking time out of busy professional and personal lives to write the research articles, literature reviews, and case reports and to submit their work to the constructive but, at times, critical feedback generated by the peer review process. We also want to acknowledge the authors of Letters to the Editor and media reviews for their investment in the field of OMT. The peer review process itself, of course, would be impossible if not for the dedication, the expertise, and time investment of the Associate Editorial Board Members, the Copy Editor, and the Editor-in-Chief.

I would especially like to acknowledge the continuing contribution made by Dr. Medeiros to the success of the *Journal* as a forum for high-quality international communication in the field of OMT. And finally, we do not want to forget our readers, who take the time to critically evaluate the material published in this *Journal* and then make the effort to incorporate the knowledge and skills discussed in the articles into the clinical practice of OMT.

My responsibility as the new Editor to maintain the high standard set by all over the past 12 years is obvious.

As I mentioned above, with this responsibility also come exciting opportunities. As the Editor, it is my responsibility to see to it that, in the interest of providing optimum care to our patients, the articles published in the *Journal* have the maximum amount of impact in the field of OMT specifically and the whole health care field in general. It is also my responsibility to make sure that the information contained in the work submitted for publication becomes available to clinicians and researchers worldwide in the most expedient manner available. This is where the exciting opportunities come into play. Future plans for the *Journal*, with the goals of increasing its impact and the speed of dissemination of new knowledge relevant to the field of OMT, include:

- Having the *Journal* become Medline-referenced.
- Increasing full-text access to subscribers and possibly in a limited form to non-subscribers through our website, www.jmmtonline.com.
- Further expanding our worldwide subscriber base.
- Switching from a hard copy to an electronic submission and review process.
- Introducing a new section titled "Thesis Reviews" as a place where new information from Master's and doctoral-level theses relevant to OMT will be discussed.

As the new editor, I am looking forward to these responsibilities and opportunities. I count myself fortunate to have the continued support and input of Dr. Medeiros, who will serve the *Journal* in his new capacity of Executive Editor. And I hope I can count on your continued support whether it be as a subscriber and consumer of material published in our *Journal* or as an author of one of the articles or communications that helps expand our knowledge of manual and manipulative therapy.

REFERENCES

1. Medeiros JM, Paris SV. A message from the editors. *J Manual Manipulative Ther* 1993;1:1
2. Medeiros JM, Paris SV. A message from the editors: The year in review. *J Manual Manipulative Ther* 1993;1:121.

Peter A. Huijbregts, PT, MSc, MHSc, DPT, OCS, FAAOMPT, FCAMT

- The Journal of Manual and Manipulative Therapy is indexed in the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), EBSCO databases, and in EMBASE, the Excerpta Medica database.